

## Town of Stanford Receives Grant

By Andrew Geiger, (406)841-2772 [ageiger@mt.gov](mailto:ageiger@mt.gov)

### **Project to Focus on Revitalizing Older Homes**

Montana Department of Commerce Director Tony Preite will be in Stanford on June 13<sup>th</sup> to formally award \$255,000 to the Town for a housing revitalization project. “What is so great about this program is that local communities make the decision on what their greatest needs are,” Governor Brian Schweitzer said. “Stanford faces different challenges from Bozeman, and we are customizing government to make sure we serve all of Montana.”

### **Local Control**

The funding for the project comes from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) administered by the Montana Department of Commerce. Tony Preite explained that under this program local officials determine their greatest area of need and then apply for State funding in crucial areas. “It is important to remember that before we get involved in the picture a tremendous amount of work has already been done at the local level,” Preite said. “We are proud to partner with this effort to help bring back the full heritage of one of Montana’s great gem communities.” Preite also explained that the CDBG funding mechanism, often cited by experts as a textbook example of how to streamline government and bring community decisions back to the local level, has been the target for severe budget reductions by the Bush Administration. “We’ve sure been scrapping to ward off any deep cuts, because the reality is the impact gets felt the most in places like Judith Basin County.”

### **Attracting Private Investment**

Stanford Mayor Rose Schindler explained that this funding is intended to attract future private investment as concrete progress begins to be shown in neighborhood revitalization. “What we envisioned from the start was to get the ball rolling and prove to everyone what great potential there is in the Town of Stanford. There are no shortcuts...you build a house brick by brick, and we are going to take the same long-term approach.”